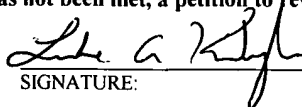


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<b>TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES          DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)          CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371</b>		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER <b>3600-502</b> U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5) <b>10/532357</b>
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. <b>PCT/JP2003/013491</b>	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE <b>October 22, 2003</b>	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED <b>October 22, 2002</b>
TITLE OF INVENTION: <b>NIOBUM POWDER, PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THE SAME AND SOLID ELECTROLYTIC CAPACITOR USING NIOBIUM POWDER</b>		
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US: <b>Eiji KATAOKA, Kouichi TAKAYAMA, and Yukio ODA</b>		
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>FIRST</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</li> <li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a <b>SECOND</b> or <b>SUBSEQUENT</b> submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</li> <li>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371 (f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (21) indicated below.</li> <li>4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The US has been elected (Article 31).</li> <li>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(2))             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).</li> <li>b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been communicated by the International Bureau.</li> <li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).</li> </ol> </li> <li>6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(2)).             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is attached hereto.</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</li> </ol> </li> <li>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 34 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input type="checkbox"/> are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been communicated by the International Bureau.</li> <li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.</li> <li>d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.</li> </ol> </li> <li>8. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))</li> <li>9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).</li> <li>10. <input type="checkbox"/> An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).</li> </ol> <p><b>Items 11 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.</li> <li>12. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.</li> <li>13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A preliminary amendment.</li> <li>14. <input type="checkbox"/> An Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76</li> <li>15. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.</li> <li>16. <input type="checkbox"/> A power of attorney and/or address change letter.</li> <li>17. <input type="checkbox"/> A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 – 1.825.</li> <li>18. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</li> <li>19. <input type="checkbox"/> A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).</li> <li>20. <input type="checkbox"/> Other items or information:</li> </ol>		

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.53(b). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

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U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5) Unknown <b>10/532357</b>		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP2003/013491		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 3600-502		
21. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted:						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> a) Basic national fee .....				\$ 300.00		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b) Examination fee .....				\$ 200.00		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> c) Search fee .....				\$ 500.00		
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$ 1,000.00		
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional fee for specification and drawings filed in paper over 100 sheets (excluding sequence listing or computer program listing filed in an electronic medium). The fee is \$250.00 for each additional 50 sheets of paper or fraction thereof.						
Total Sheets	Extra sheets	Number of each additional 50 or fraction thereof (round up to a whole number)				
26 - 100 =	/50 =	0		x \$250.00	\$ 0.00	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than Months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).					\$ 0.00	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE			
Total claims	20 - 20 =	0	x \$50.00		\$ 0.00	
Independent claims	3 - 3 =	0	x \$200.00		\$ 0.00	
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)				+	\$360.00	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =					\$ 1,000.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.					\$ 0.00	
SUBTOTAL =					\$ 1,000.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).					\$ 0.00	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =					\$ 1,000.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property				+	\$ 40.00	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =					\$ 1,040.00	
				Amount to be Refunded	\$	
				Amount to be Charged	\$	
a. <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees is enclosed.						
b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees.						
c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0925.						
d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fees are to be charged to a credit card. <b>WARNING:</b> Information on this form may become public. <b>Credit card information should not be included on this form.</b> Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.						
<b>NOTE:</b> Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.						
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO						
KILYK & BOWERSOX, P.L.L.C. 53 A East Lee Street Warrenton, VA 20186						
Phone (540) 428-1701 - Facsimile (540) 428-1720						
				SIGNATURE: 		
				NAME Luke A. Kilyk		
				REGISTRATION NUMBER 33,251		

Form PTO-1390 (REV 12-2001)

Date: April 20, 2005 Label No. EV567260111US I hereby certify that, on the date indicated above, I deposited this paper with identified attachments and/or fee with the U.S. Postal Service and that it was addressed for delivery to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 by "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service.

Donald S. Prater  
Name (Print)

  
Signature